

Certificate Of Transmission

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile to the United States Patent and Trademark Office at telephone number (703) 746-9334 on February 4, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

By: B. S. Kuzara
Registration Number 51,255
Banner & Witcoff, Ltd.

PATENT**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

<i>In re</i> Application of)	
)	Group Art Unit: 2144
Masaru OHKUBO, et al.)	
)	Examiner: Nguyen, T.
Serial Number 09/695,231)	
)	Attorney Reference: 000407.00004
Filed: October 25, 2000)	
)	
For: AUTOMATIC VENDING MACHINE)	
HAVING A CONTROL SYSTEM)	
CAPABLE OF EASILY AND RELIABLY)	
REWRITING A CONTROL PROGRAM)	
IN EACH TERMINAL CONTROL UNIT)	

RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313

Sir:


In a telephone conference on February 4, 2005, the Examiner requested that differences between independent claims 1 and 16 be addressed by the Applicants. The Applicants submit that independent claim 1 recites features that include a transfer means, memorizing means, and rewriting means, for example. In contrast, independent claim 16 recites features that include a transfer device, memorizing device, and rewriting device. It is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 16 are patentably distinct in that the transfer device, memorizing

device, and rewriting device of independent claim 16 are generic terms not limited in scope to structures specifically disclosed in the specification or equivalents thereof.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in a condition for allowance. The Applicants respectfully request, therefore, that the rejections be withdrawn and that this application now be allowed.

This Response is being filed by facsimile transmission on February 4, 2005. Should fees be deemed necessary for consideration of this Response, such fees or extension are hereby requested and the Commissioner is authorized to charge deposit account number 19-0733 for the payment of the requisite fee. If anything further is desirable to place the application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned representative at (503) 425-6800.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Byron S. Kuzara
Registration No. 51,255

Banner & Witcoff, Ltd.
1001 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001-4597
Telephone: (202) 824-3000

Dated: February 4, 2005



BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW

601 SW SECOND AVENUE, # 1900
PORTLAND, OREGON 97204

TEL: 503.425.6800
FAX: 503.425.6801
www.bannerwitcoff.com

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO:
Examiner T. Nguyen

FROM:
Byron S. Kuzara

COMPANY:
U.S.P.T.O.

DATE:
February 4, 2005

FAX NUMBER:
703-746-9334

TOTAL NO. OF PAGES:
3

RE:
U.S. Serial No. 09/695,231

OUR REFERENCE No.:
000407.00004

If you do not receive all page(s) or have any problems receiving this transmission, please call:

NAME: Lesa Wolman

PHONE: 503-425-6800

COMMENTS:

IMPORTANT/CONFIDENTIAL: This message is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to whom it is addressed. This message contains information from the law firm of BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD. which may be privileged, confidential or exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, retention, archiving, or copying of the communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately at our telephone number listed above. We will be happy to arrange for the return of this message to our offices at no cost to you.

CHICAGO

WASHINGTON, D.C.

BOSTON

PORTLAND,
OR